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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Military Barracks in Opava

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three reports on military barracks in Opava

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(N 49-57, E 17-55). The first report (Attachment A) contains information on the Jaselske Barracks and on the tank unit which occupies it. The report also mentions an adjacent prison for special prisoners with technical knowledge. Attachment B describes the New Barracks, which is occupied by a motorized unit. Attachment C describes the Dukelske Barracks, which is occupied by troops some of whom appear to belong to artillery and transportation corps units.

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A.

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from other military units of a current type. Until 1955 the barracks were almost deserted from May till September, but in summer 1955 the barracks were fully occupied till September when the unit left for unknown destination. This unit was about 700 - 900 men strong and its members had black epaulets with a symbol of a tank. There were also some soldiers with red epaulets - probably tank-born infantry, auto-transport troops with brown epaulets and a symbol of winged wheels and about 50 officer school cadets with black epaulets red bordered and one or two golden arrows.

2. Shortly afterwards a new unit arrived. This unit, after the induction of new recruits, was also about 500 - 700 men strong. Other units, including the cadets, remained in the barracks - or returned to the barracks after summer exercises.
3. With the new units there was also a change of equipment. The following items were withdrawn in September 1955:
 - 33 tanks T-34/85 (Czechoslovak made)
 - 6 self-propelled guns 152-mm, probably Soviet made; typical for their small height of about 160-170 cm.
 - 16 armored carriers of Czechoslovak make, 4-wheeled, with either a 20-mm gun or two machine guns 7.92 mm.
 - 16 armored, tracked carriers of Czechoslovak make equipped with two machine guns 7.92-mm.
 - 16 Soviet guns Model 42, caliber 76-mm.

The withdrawn pieces of equipment were replaced in November 1955 by the following:

- 20 tanks T-34/85, Czechoslovak make, new.
- 25 tanks of an alleged new Skoda type, 25-ton, 76-mm gun.
- 20 guns 76-mm Soviet Model 42.
- 15 armored carriers, Czechoslovak make, 4-wheeled.
- 15 armored, tracked carriers, Czechoslovak make.

The new unit had the following vehicles:

- 22 trucks Tatra 111
- 2 radio trucks Skoda
- 3 ambulances Skoda

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- 1 tank-truck (road cistern) Tatra 111
- 4 amphibian vehicles for 4 passengers each, Soviet type but Czechoslovak make
- 6 jeeps Skoda
- 11 motorcycles (5 East German BMW, 6 Jawa).

4. Personnel

Soviet adviser (NU) comes from Opava to supervise the training. Rank - major, [redacted]

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Sr. Lt. Burian (fnu) technical service officer. [redacted]

Sr. Lt. Sale (fnu) quartermaster in Jaselske Barracks. [redacted]

5. Jaselske Barracks are old barracks lying on western outskirts of Opava, north of Krmovska cesta. During recent years the barracks were repaired and well maintained; new garages and workshops were built. Adjacent to the barracks area on the eastern side is special prison for prisoners with technical knowledge. Many of the prisoners are of German nationality. The prisoners are being guarded by Interior Guard and large drawing and modelling rooms can be observed in the buildings.

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Legend for the sketch

1. Men's quarters, quartermaster's offices and kitchen; four-storied old building, about 50 x 10 x 35 x 10 meters large.
2. Auto garages and car washing box; ground floor, about 40 x 10 m.
3. Fire engine garage; ground floor, about 15 x 8 meters.
4. Newly built garage; ground floor, about 40 x 8 m.
5. Lecture rooms for cadets; old, three-storied building, the main part is about 50 x 12 m large.
6. Guard room; ground floor, masonry, 10 x 10 m.
7. Gun garage; old, ground floor, 40 x 8 m.
8. Auto and gun garage; new, reinforced concrete and brick, ground-floor, 40 x 8 meters.
9. Gasoline pump with underground tanks.
10. Auto garage; newly built, same as # 8.

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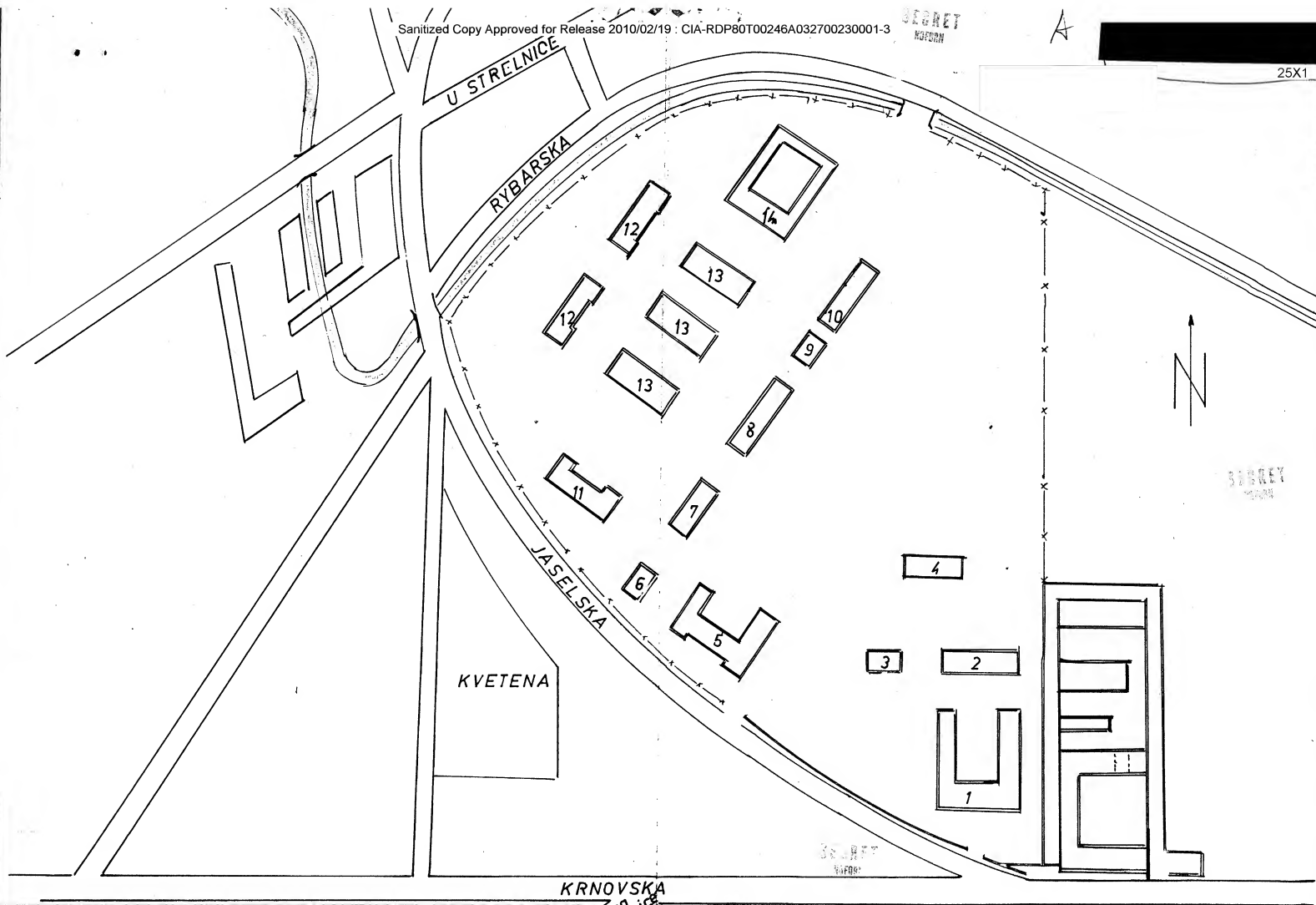
11. Unit headquarters; old, three-storied, about 50 x 12 meters.
12. Men's quarters; two buildings, same as # 11.
13. Tank garages; three new buildings, iron concrete and brick, 50 x 12 meters each.
14. Workshops; the building forms a square, southern building is 50 x 15 meters large, three remaining buildings are 50 x 10 m each. The workshops are well equipped with machine tools and spare parts. Tanks, artillery pieces and vehicles are repaired here.

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a complex of garages was built in 1952 and 1953. ~~Renovating of~~
barracks was finished in 1955. The barracks lie southwest of
Jaselske barracks on the southern side of Krnovska cesta. The area
of the barracks is a triangle whose northern side is about 400 meters
long.

2. A motorized unit about 600-700 men strong is quartered in the barracks. Most of the soldiers billeted in the barracks wear black-bordered red shoulder boards; some soldiers wear black-bordered brown shoulder boards with a badge of transportation corps.
3. The following equipment was observed when the unit was leaving in January 1956 for winter exercises:

About 18 guns, 76-mm, Soviet Model 42.

" 20 mortars, caliber approx. 120 mm, on pneumatic tires.

" 2 trucks V-3-S with rocket launching equipment.

" 2 AA machine guns, four-barreled, caliber about 20 mm,
mounted on 4-wheel platform with pneumatic tires.

" 40 trucks Tatra 111.

A smaller number of trucks of various types, such as Tatra 128,
Praga RN, Skoda 706 and V-3-S.

" 6-8 jeeps Skoda 1,200.

" 9 motorcycles, both BMW and Jawa.

" 2 trucks Tatra 111 with cisterns.

4. Personnel

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Sr. Lt. Tot (fnu), quartermaster.

Lt. Lazar (fnu), function unknown.

Legend for the sketch

1. Three-storied building, completely renovated, L-shaped, 50 x 20 x 10 meters, used as men's quarters.
2. Four-storied, old building, U-shaped, 60 x 25 x 10 meters, used as unit's headquarters and men's billets.

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3. Old underground bunker.
4. Three-storied, old building, L-shaped, 20 x 15 x 10 meters, used as men's quarters.
5. Three-storied, old building, 20 x 10 meters, used as quartermaster's offices.
6. Quartermaster's warehouse; two-storied, 30 x 10 meters.
7. Kitchen and men's quarters; three-storied, 45 x 10 meters.
8. Equipment store; two-storied, 50 x 10 meters.
9. Dispensary; two old buildings, one three-storied 30 x 10 meters, one two-storied 15 x 15 meters.
10. Autoworkshops; new building, finished in 1955, L-shaped, 40 x 40 x 15 meters. Central heating plant is located in the basement. About 8 meters above the roof is protruding a watch tower, whose top is about 20 meters above the ground.
11. Six auto garages, newly built with concreted space between them; each garage is about 40 x 15 meters large.
- 11a Garage, newly built, about 100 meters long, a fuel station in the middle part.
12. Wooden hut; during the reconstruction of the barracks used by the Moravostav building enterprise as temporary office.

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until the summer of 1953 by a horse-drawn unit. In summer 1953 the horses were withdrawn, the stables were adapted for use as garages and gun sheds. Eight new garages, a kitchen and a boiler house were built and older buildings were renovated. At the end of 1953 a fully motorized unit about 1,000 men strong arrived in the barracks.

2. The soldiers quartered in the Dukelske barracks wear black or red shoulder boards; most of them have artillery badges, some of them have transportation corps badges and some wear a symbol resembling a ball with flames coming out of it.
3. The unit used to leave for the VVT (Military Training Area) in the middle of May and returned back in September; it also took part in the winter exercises which usually started at the end of January and lasted two weeks, during which time the unit stayed away from the barracks. The following equipment was observed with the unit leaving for the summer training:

About 10 German light howitzers, Model 18, caliber 10.5 cm.
" 15 Soviet light howitzers, on pneumatic tires, double recoil cylinders, muzzle brake and caliber 122 mm or less.
" 20 Soviet guns, Model 42, caliber 76 mm.
" 10 Soviet regimental guns, Model 27, caliber 76 mm, with short barrel.
" 15 mortars on pneumatic tires.
" 65 Tatra 111 trucks.
" 5 radio trucks Skoda.
" 10 Skoda jeeps.
" 10 Motorcycles BMW (East German product).
" 5 Motorcycles Jawa.
4 Skoda ambulances.
2 Tatra 111 cistern trucks.

A considerable amount of equipment was still left behind in the garages when the unit left for the summer stay.

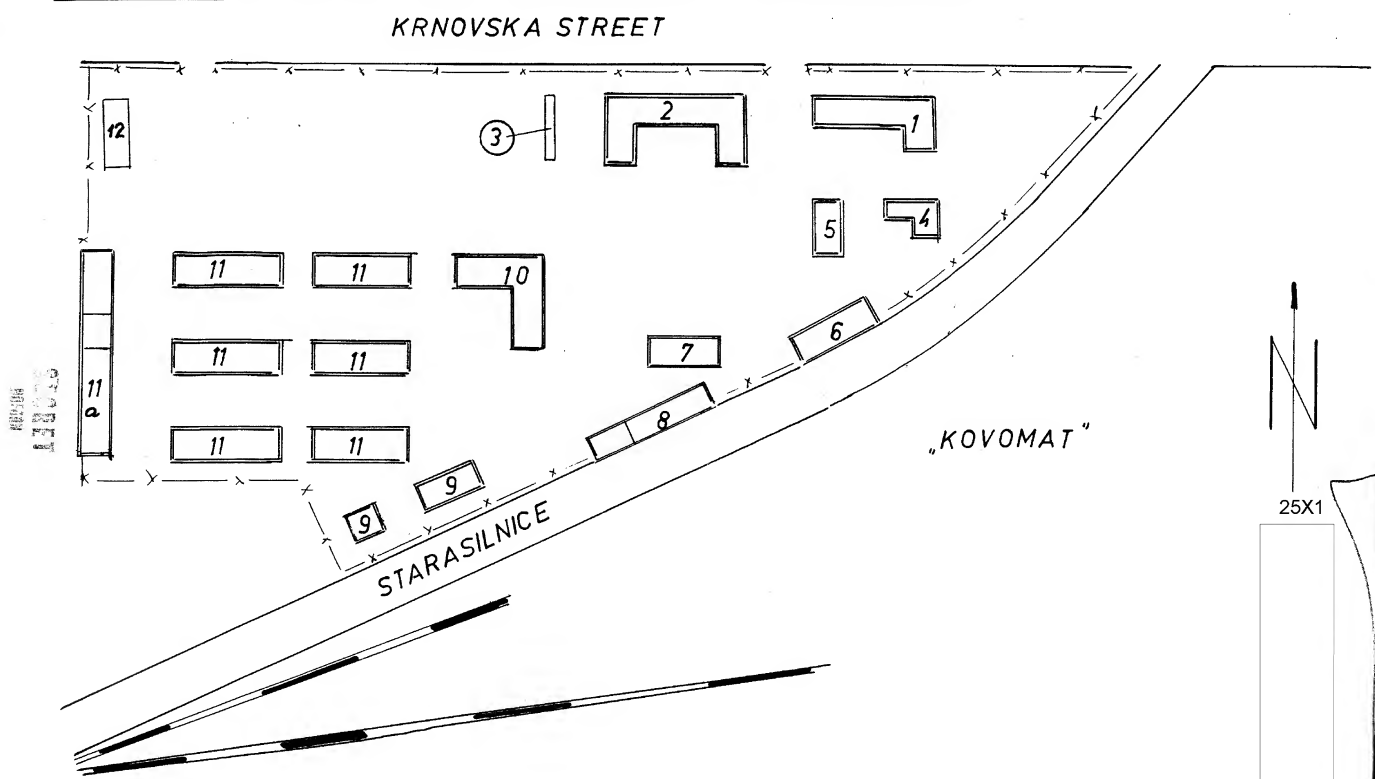
4. The Dukelske barracks lie in the western part of Opava and are adjacent to the western side of the Zapadni (Western) RR station yard. South of the barracks are officers' apartment houses which are divided from the barracks by Dukelska ulice; this side of the barracks is about 300 meters long. On the west the barracks are bordered by Stojanova ulice (a continuation of Lenin Street).

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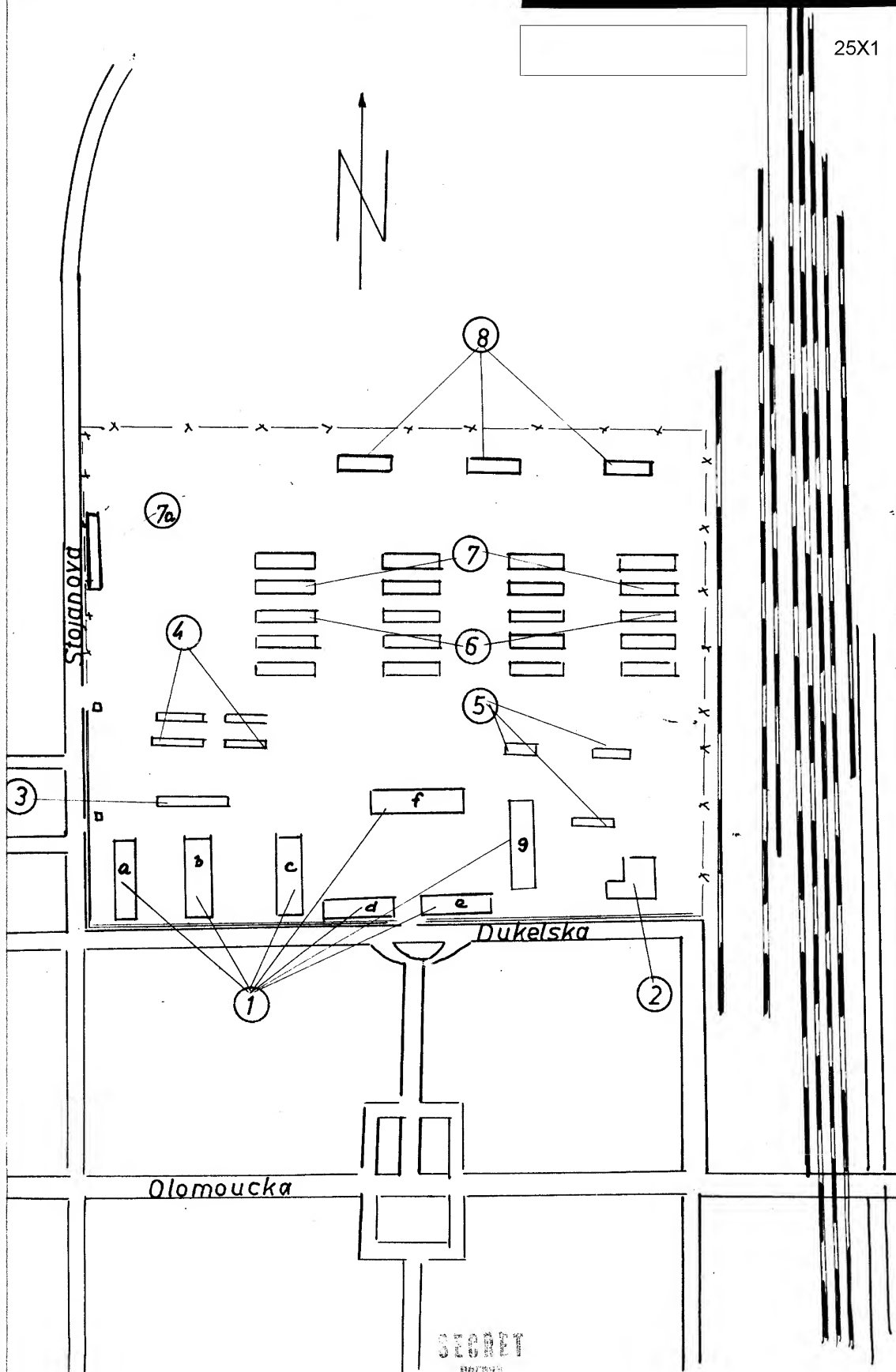
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25X1Legend for the sketch

1. Seven four-storied older buildings, 50 x 10 meters each. The buildings a, b, c and g are used for men's quarters; the building f houses regimental headquarters, the building b regimental dispensary and the buildings d and e are used for quartermaster's offices and officers' quarters.
2. Theater, kitchen, lecture rooms and boiler room; ground-floor, wooden construction, L-shaped, about 50 x 20 x 10 m large, built in 1953 and 1954.
3. Fire house; ground-floor, 40 x 10 meters.
4. Horse stables and warehouses; two buildings are used as stables for about 20 remaining horses, other two empty stables are used as warehouses.
5. Smithy and carpentry; two old ground-floor buildings are used as workshops, one is used as warehouse.
6. Twelve old stables now used as garages for vehicles and guns; 40 x 12 meters each.
7. Eight new garages built in 1953-54; the same size as # 6.
- 7a Garage for guns; newly built, about 80 x 12 meters large.
8. Three old ground-floor buildings containing ordnance and auto workshops; 30 x 10 meters each.

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